

When I came to examine these lectures with a view to their publication I found that, adopting the order of the present book., chapters i-viii and x required little more than a certain amount of condensation and the verification of references and quotations.¹ For chapters ix, on Irish history, and xi, on Macaulay's errors, there were only outlines and many quotations and references. All I have ventured to do with them has been to expand the notes where they were too brief into a consecutive narrative and to link up the quotations. Chapters xii-xiv, on James II, Mary II, and William III, needed revising in accordance with marginal directions.² They already contained a certain amount of my work, for in 1915 the original lectures on the three sovereigns above mentioned were entrusted to me in order that I might try my ^prentice hand on the task of preparing them for the press. I worked constantly under Firth's supervision, so that although in places I am responsible for the form of words used, the arrangement and subject matter are his. I am responsible for most of the translations from French and German documents and have deliberately made the rendering literal.

Generally speaking, no attempt has been made to bring the work completely up to date. The commentary really represents the state of knowledge, about 1914, of the Revolution of 1688. On the other hand, I have

not hesi-
tated to change a few statements which the
passage of time
has invalidated. There seems, for instance, to
be no point
in retaining in the text a statement that
William III's

¹ The editions cited throughout are those used in verifying
references and
quotations.

² It is clear from some detached notes that Sir Charles
contemplated ad-
ditions to the chapters on James and on William III, in
order to include a
discussion of James in exile and to show how Macaulay's
character of
William would have gained had the History been finished
to 1702.